

CLAIMS

1. A switch having a first electrical contact and a second electrical contact, at least one of the first and second contacts being movable relative to the other contact, such that the contacts can be moved between an open condition, wherein the contacts are spaced apart, and a closed condition, wherein the contacts are in contact, and a variably resistive material arranged such that as the contacts move from the open condition to the closed condition, a force is applied to the variably resistant material to provide a current flow path through the switch before the contacts are in electrical contact.
2. A switch according to claim 1, wherein the variably resistive material exhibits a reduction of resistance upon application of force thereto.
3. A switch according to claim 1 or 2, comprising a third contact.
4. A switch according to claim 3, wherein the one of the contacts is arranged to form a bridge between the other two contacts, when the contacts are in the closed position.
5. A switch according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a body of variably resistive material is attached to one at least of the contacts.
6. A switch according to claim 5, wherein when the switch is in the open position, the body of variably resistive material is in contact with one only of the contacts.
7. A switch according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the variably resistive material is arranged such that as the contacts move from the open condition to the closed condition, the variably resistive material provides a current flow path between the contacts before the contacts make contact with one another.
8. A switch according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the variably resistive material is arranged such that it is compressed as the contacts move from the open condition to the closed condition.

9. A switch according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein variably resistive material is arranged relative to each contact point within the switch
- 5 10. A switch according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first electrical contact is a fixed contact having at least one electrical contact, the second contact being moveable relative to the first contact to move the contacts between the closed condition and the open condition, the second contact having a convexly curved electrical contact surface, and the second contact being adapted to rotate about a pivot axis tranverse of the electrical
10 contact surface of the first contact.
11. A switch according to claim 10, wherein the electrical contact surface of the first contact is substantially planar.
12. A switch according to claim 11, wherein the electrical contact surface of the first contact is convexly curved.
- 15 13. A switch according to any one of claims 10-12, wherein the movable contact is inclined relative to the fixed contact when the contacts are in the open condition, but on contact with the fixed contact is caused to rotate into an orientation substantially parallel to the fixed contact by virtue of a force applied to the movable contact.
- 20 14. A switch according to claim 13, wherein the force applied to the movable contact to cause it to rotate is generated by a spring acting upon the movable contact.